

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A bobbin of plastic comprising:

a cylinder formed integrally with two circumferential end flanges having a one piece injection moulded U-shaped channel,

wherein each cylinder includes a plurality of cylinder elements each having a slightly curved, radially inner surface forming a circumference of the cylinder, and

~~wherein each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, essentially-radial flange elements which are distributed along the circumference of the cylinder.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which the flange elements over the entire radial extent have a ~~an essentially~~ constant extension in the circumferential direction, the flange elements of each end flange having a total extension in the circumferential direction which is ~~essentially~~ equal to the circumference of the cylinder.

3. (Previously Presented) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in the outer circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending the entire length of the cylinder between a point between two adjoining flange elements of one end flange and a point between two adjoining flange elements of the other end flange.

4. (Previously Presented) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which a plurality of axial grooves are formed in the inner circumferential surface of the cylinder, each groove extending the entire length of the cylinder between a point between two adjoining flange elements of one end flange and a point between two adjoining flange elements of the other end flange.

5. (Previously Presented) A bobbin as claimed in claim 4, in which the plurality of axial grooves in the inner circumferential surface of the cylinder are located opposite to the plurality of grooves in the outer circumferential surface thereof and are wedge-shaped in cross-section.

6. (Previously Presented) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which each flange element at its radially inner end has a lug which extends past the inner circumferential surface of the cylinder and has a circumferential extent that decreases radially inwards.

7. (Previously Presented) A bobbin as claimed in claim 1, in which at least one flange element of one end flange at its radially outer end has an articulated projection which at its free end is hookable onto the other end flange.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a bobbin of plastic comprising:
injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel, the one piece U-shaped channel
having a plurality of cylinder elements with a slightly curved surface and two circumferential
end flanges, each end flange includes a plurality of spaced-apart, radial flange elements;
bending the U-shaped channel ~~to form a cylinder with end flanges;~~ and
connecting the ends of the U-shaped channel with each other in a position so the
slightly curved surfaces of the plurality of cylinder elements form a cylinder and, ~~such that~~
side walls of the U-shaped channel include a plurality of spaced-apart wall elements
distributed along the length of the channel.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the connecting includes inserting into holes formed in a cylinder element ~~a base of the U-shaped channel~~ at a first end of the U-shaped channel protrusions formed on a projection at a second end of the ~~base of the U-shaped channel~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes forming transverse inner grooves which extend an entire width of ~~a base of the U-shaped channel~~ between a point between two adjoining wall elements of one side wall and a point between two adjoining wall elements of the other side wall.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes providing at an end of each wall element connected with a cylinder element ~~base of the U-shaped channel~~ a lug which extends past the cylinder element ~~base~~ and has an extent decreasing in ~~at the~~ longitudinal direction of the U-shaped channel, away from the wall element, and

the bending ~~the~~ a U-shaped channel to form a cylinder includes bending the U-shaped channel until each lug is brought into abutment against a neighbouring lug.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the injection moulding a one piece U-shaped channel includes forming ~~providing a base of the U-shaped channel with~~ transverse outer grooves which extend the entire width of the U-shaped channel ~~base~~ between a point between two adjoining wall elements of one side wall and a point between two adjoining wall elements of the other side wall.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A bobbin of plastic comprising:
a cylinder including end flanges forming ~~and~~ a one-piece injection moulded U-shaped
channel,
wherein each portion of a base of the U-shaped channel has a slightly curved radially
inner surface, which forms an inner circumference of the cylinder.

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